

A LITTLE HISTORY: SELECTION OF A LOCALLY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

This study is not the first time that Regional Transit has considered light rail in this area and looked to the community for input. RT began studying the project back in 1994 and conducted a multi-faceted public outreach campaign to inform, educate and solicit input from residents and other interested parties.

1994— A study to evaluate various transit alternatives in the South Sacramento area was conducted. The study, called the Alternatives Analysis/Draft Environmental Impact Study/Draft Environmental Impact Report (AA/DEIS/DEIR), analyzed seven transit options including bus, high-occupancy vehicle, and rail modes with various alignment and station options.

1995— After the study was completed and public as well as agency comments reviewed, a preferred light rail alignment was adopted by the RT Board of Directors as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA). This action set the stage for creating a transit project that would be eligible for federal funding, supplementing state and local monies. The LPA identified a light rail alignment beginning at downtown Sacramento

and extending south to Calvine Road at Auberry Drive (Calvine/Auberry).

Phases— To address budget constraints and lessen traffic impacts, design and construction was broken into two phases: Phase 1 (downtown Sacramento south of Broadway to Meadowview Road) is currently under construction. Phase 2 (Meadowview Road to Calvine/Auberry) is currently being refined and is the subject of the current study effort.

RT's General Manager, Pilka Robinson, said an important emphasis during this study must be on community collaboration. GM Robinson believes that a cooperative community effort will be key to the success of the South Line Phase 2 Corridor Project. "When designing a new system for an established community, it is difficult to fully mitigate every single issue," states Robinson. "While some compromises will undoubtedly be necessary, I believe the community must once again come together and support the new light rail system. It is because of community support that we have gotten this far."

The Sacramento Area Council of Government's Metropolitan Transportation Plan recognizes the South Line extension as a needed benefit to address Sacramento's projected population growth of almost a million people by the year 2025. "Wherever transit or road investments are made, the local area does receive benefits in the form of better access and relief from congestion." (SACOG Metropolitan Transportation Plan, page 10)

between Calvine and Mack Roads. RT's Board Chair, expressing concern for maintaining healthy air emissions standards and providing increased transit options for residents, was emphatic about the need to extend the light rail system into South Sacramento. "We need this line to alleviate traffic congestion around Cosumnes River College, to help reduce regional traffic problems, and to improve resident's quality of life in this area."

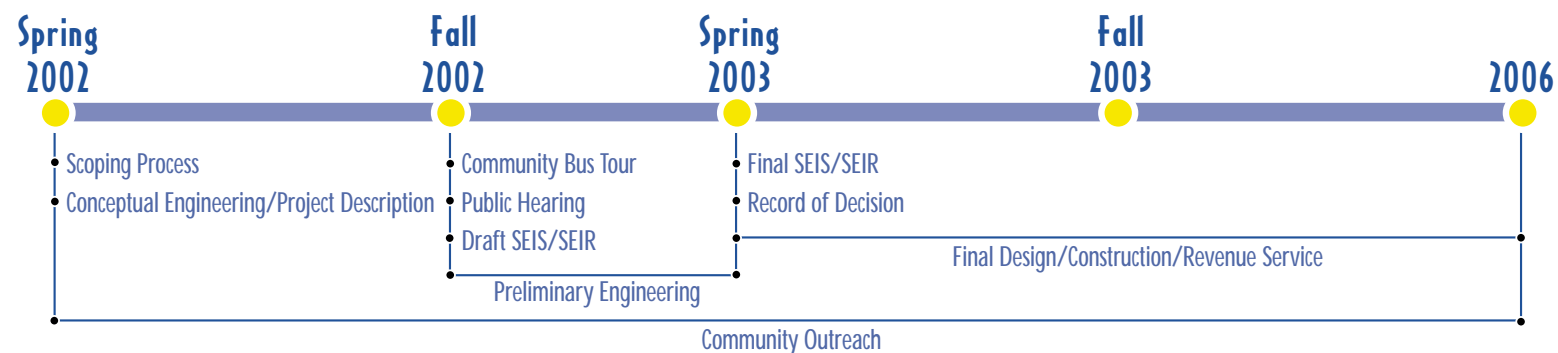
RT'S BOARD CHAIR SPEAKS ABOUT FUTURE POSSIBILITIES

Sacramento Regional Transit District Board Chair, Bonnie Pannell, said having the South Line Phase 2 extend into South Sacramento will bring numerous benefits. According to Chair Pannell, connectivity is the key. "Connections to the college, downtown Sacramento, Rancho Cordova and Folsom, and the three existing high schools benefit everyone and will help increase employment opportunities in the area. I am especially gratified to know this transit system will help

students and seniors with their transportation needs," Pannell stated.

Along with connectivity, RT Chair Pannell stressed the need to find traffic congestion relief. Pannell cited SACOG studies that show daily traffic is only expected to worsen. Traffic volume north of Mack Road is expected to increase by 20 to 25 percent over the next 20 years. More startling are statistics that show a 40 to 50 percent increase expected for traffic

between Calvine and Mack Roads. RT's Board Chair, expressing concern for maintaining healthy air emissions standards and providing increased transit options for residents, was emphatic about the need to extend the light rail system into South Sacramento. "We need this line to alleviate traffic congestion around Cosumnes River College, to help reduce regional traffic problems, and to improve resident's quality of life in this area."



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DON NOTTOLI

BONNIE PANSELL

RAY TRETHERWAY

Phase 2 Project Manager

DAVID MELKO

CONNECT WITH PHASE 2

How to be Involved

For more information about the South Sacramento Phase 2 Corridor Project, please contact us by phone, mail, or e-mail, or go to the project Web site. If you would like a presentation about the Study at your organization's meeting, please call the information line to make your request.



(916) 491-5003



Sacramento Regional Transit
P.O. Box 2110
Sacramento, CA 95812-2110



info@SLP2.org



www.sacrt.com

Language:

Call the South Line Phase 2 information line (listed on this page) to make requests for language translations.

Access:

If you need special access accommodations during scheduled public meetings, please call the information line (listed on this page).

Please call TDD (916) 483-4327 to request this publication in accessible formats.

Thank you for your interest in this important community project.

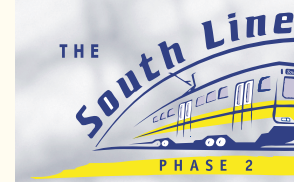
Southline-Connect with Phase 2, Summer 2002

WWW.SACRT.COM

Sacramento Regional Transit District
South Sacramento Phase 2 Corridor Project
c/o Public Outreach, 660 J Street, Suite 444
Sacramento, CA, 95814

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REGIONAL TRANSIT HEADS SOUTH

Connect with Phase 2

Issue 1, Summer 2002

WELCOME TO THE SOUTH SACRAMENTO PHASE 2 CORRIDOR PROJECT

The South Line is coming. The first phase is well under construction and the second phase is now in the environmental review and conceptual engineering process. This is the phase where public input is most critical. Now is the time to let the Sacramento Regional Transit District (RT) know your thoughts about the Phase 2 extension.



In this newsletter you will find information about the proposed route of the South Line Phase 2 extension as well as where RT is proposing stations along this route. There is also a schedule for the public to follow for both technical milestones and public meetings/events that provide opportunities to learn more about and comment on this environmental study.

RT invites and welcomes your participation. Bonnie Pannell, Sacramento Regional Transit District Board Chair, strongly encourages



community members to get involved and take an active role in decisions that affect the local community. "Help make this light rail extension a system that best serves the neighbors and businesses of South Sacramento. Join us for future meetings or contact us with your thoughts," Chair

Pannell stated. Information about how to contact RT is on the back page.

Sacramento Regional Transit District



Project Description

The Sacramento Regional Transit District (RT) is proposing to extend the South Line light rail system. The purpose of this extension is to improve public transit service in the congested South Corridor area by providing increased transit capacity and faster, convenient access throughout the Sacramento metropolitan region. The proposed South Sacramento Phase 2 Corridor Project would extend light rail approximately five miles from Meadowview Road to the intersection at Calvine Road and Auberry Drive (Calvine/Auberry).

Stations

During initial explorations, five stations were identified along the corridor. After further study and considering public input to date, RT has consolidated the number of proposed stations to four:

- Franklin Boulevard
- Center Parkway
- Cosumnes River College/College Square
- Calvine/Auberry

Alignment

The proposed Phase 2 light rail extension would follow the Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way south from Meadowview Road, turn east and run north of the proposed extension of Cosumnes River Boulevard, follow the Boulevard to Bruceville Road, turn south to serve Cosumnes River College/College Square development, turn east to cross State Highway 99, and terminate at a station at Calvine/Auberry.

Project Goals

- Improve public transit service in Southern Sacramento City and County and the City of Elk Grove
- Enhance regional connectivity through expanded, interconnected transit services, including bus and express bus services
- Accommodate future travel demand in the corridor by expanding modal options
- Alleviate severe and ever-increasing traffic congestion on State Highway 99
- Improve regional air quality by reducing auto emissions
- Improve mobility options to employment, education, medical, retail, and entertainment centers for corridor residents, in particular low income, youth, elderly, disabled, and ethnic minority populations
- Support local economic goals and land use plans

Corridor Issues

ASSESSING HOW A NEW LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT LINE MIGHT AFFECT THE SOUTH SACRAMENTO AREA

The South Sacramento Phase 2 Corridor Project will examine environmental impacts and potential changes to the physical and social environment. Through ongoing RT outreach, several agencies, representing issues of air quality, water resources, land use, funding and utilities, have been able to provide important information to the environmental study process. The goal of these meetings has been to help balance public interests with technical and environmental considerations, while making every effort to complete this project in a timely manner.

Physical environmental issues to be examined include potential changes in:

- Natural resources
- Air quality
- Noise/vibration

- Water quality
- Flood plains
- Geology/seismic effects
- Wetlands
- Buffer areas
- Drainage/hydrology
- Visual/aesthetics resources

Potential changes to the social environment could include:

- Land use and access
- Business
- Community facilities
- Neighborhood disruptions
- Environmental justice issues

Additional potential impacts this study will review include:

- Traffic and pedestrian circulation and traffic congestion
- Transit service and ridership
- Impacts on parklands, historic and cultural resources
- Construction impacts

A number of other projects are occurring in the vicinity of the South Sacramento Phase 2 Corridor Project. They include:

- Cosumnes River Boulevard extension
- Roadway widenings—Cosumnes River Boulevard and Bruceville Road
- Floodplain/drainage/levee/floodwall improvements
- Proposed utility improvements in the corridor such as a major sewer interceptor project and a possible Freeport Diversion water pipeline
- Land use developments—College Square, City redevelopment areas, Cosumnes River College plans and improvements
- Master Plan for the County Sanitation District Bufferlands

RT will coordinate carefully with agencies responsible for these projects. Discussions are ongoing to ensure that plans for the South Sacramento Phase 2 Corridor Project are integrated with other area improvements already identified. Comments received both from agencies and the public, and any issues identified will be evaluated during the environmental study process.

Community Involvement

KEY TO SUCCESSFUL SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

While detailed environmental analysis of the South Line light rail corridor took place in mid-1990's, additional study is warranted for Phase 2 to identify any new issues that may have occurred along the corridor from Meadowview to Calvine/Auberry.

Specifically, under both the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) RT and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) are preparing a combined report that explains the environmental impacts of the five-mile, Phase 2 extension. The Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS), in accordance with NEPA, and Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR), in accordance with CEQA, provide opportunities for the public to give input into the evaluation of project-related environmental impacts.

This federal and state regulated public comment period is officially known as the "scoping process" because it assists a public agency (in this case RT) determine the scope, focus and content of a project during the environmental review period. To date, RT has held one agency and two public scoping meetings as well as many small community meetings with neighborhood organizations.

RT also conducted stakeholder interviews and sponsored an Agency bus tour and field visit. Agencies and organizations that have jurisdiction, property and/or projects affected by this new alignment attended the tour and provided feedback to RT. "Inter-agency cooperation is extremely important on a project of this magnitude," Christopher Brown, Vice President of Cosumnes River College, said. "The college and its students will undoubtedly benefit from additional public transit systems such as the light rail extension. The ultimate success of any new capital program is highly dependant upon the cooperation, input, and partnerships of various agencies during the planning and design phase. Our college and district have been very pleased with the level of collaboration and cooperation that we've received from Regional Transit. Such collaboration ensures the project will meet the needs of all interested parties."

During this summer and fall, additional community meetings, small group briefings, a community bus tour, and a public hearing will be held in various South Sacramento locations. Current project updates, meeting times and locations can be found by calling the information line (916-491-5003) or by visiting the RT Web site (www.sacrt.com).

"Personally, I am very excited to see light rail come to the south area," said North Laguna Creek Neighborhood Association President, Laura Leavitt. "It is an important addition to our community and region; hopefully, one that will alleviate the current traffic problems and improve poor air quality. I encourage residents to get involved in the process and get your voices heard."

